Glad Tidings

Spring 2020

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Glad Tidings

Spring 2020

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EDITOR: Colleen Wood

DESIGN: Alexis McKeown

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Glad Tidings reports on aspects of the Women's Missionary Society on all levels. *Glad Tidings* challenges concerned Christians to reflect on their faith through articles and reports related to mission and social justice issues, locally, nationally, and internationally. *Glad Tidings* through its content, encourages readers to become informed, educated, inspired, and motivated to action. *GladTidings* provides a forum for a broad spectrum of opinion and information, thus the views expressed in features, news reports, letters, and book reviews are not necessarily endorsed by the WMS or by the Editor.

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Editorial

I have had the joy over the last few months to go through many, many past editions of *Glad Tidings*. Whether you have been reading *Glad Tidings* for a year, or for over 50, you know that 'this little magazine' has been full of such great reading material. I can't believe that I have been the editor for the last 12 years! As I have been reflecting, the one thing I want to say is, don't stop telling stories.

The one thing that *Glad Tidings* has been doing since 1925 is telling stories. It has been telling stories of mission. It has been telling stories of faith. It has been telling stories of God's people. For almost 100 years, *Glad Tidings* has been telling your story and mine.

Stories are memorable. It is well known, that stories convey knowledge in a very memorable way. It is no wonder that Jesus used storytelling so often in his ministry. Stories don't just provide information, they let others live your experience. Stories are creative and they contain feelings and emotions. Stories teach us about our past and lead us into a new future.

As the WMS moves forward, keep telling your stories. Tell others about your friends and experiences in the WMS. Tell these to the broader church by sending articles to Presbyterian Connections. If you have participated in a WMS or PCC mission trip, tell your story, and the stories of those you encountered so others may learn from your experiences.

As I leave this position, I want to thank all of you who have supported me with your prayers, your kind words, your cards, and your stories. Growing up surrounded by many WMS members, their stories have affected my own. I wish the WMS all the best as it continues to serve God and the church through study, prayer, service, and fellowship.

Therefore, my beloved,[a] be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. ~ 1 Corinthians 15:58 (NRSV)

Historic Editorial: June 1999

Not so Frail as Summer's Flowers!
by L. June Stevenson, Editor

Inside the conference hall the first warm days of Spring began to make the delegates uncomfortable until the air conditioning finally kicked in. Outside, the scourge of gardeners, the lowly dandelion was already taking over the lawns of Crieff Hills, bold as ever and just as obnoxious.

It's funny how after the showers of April, the first flowers of May are dandelions. Jumping the gun on all the rest of summer's blooms, they seem intent on being not only the first but the fiercest in their race to overtake the grass before it has a chance to grow.

Most children have hurried to pick the first blooms and, with hands sticky from the milk oozing from the stems, present a handful of them to their mothers. And every little girl, at least in my childhood days, spent happy hours in the garden, making dandelion chains to wind around wrists and neck, spring's finest jewelry, fashioned from nature's sturdiest weeds.

Nothing was ever more fun that picking the stems when the thick yellow flowers had turned to wisps of summer's ghosts, like blonde women whose hair turns white overnight. Freeing the seeds from their sockets to float and drift on the summer breeze, and finally come to rest in their winter home, where they will lie dormant until next Spring.

Rev. Suh Jungsoon, newly arrived from Japan, commented on the dandelions. They are the same in Japan, she said. They were a fitting symbol to the work of the Women's Missionary Society, gathered for its Annual Council Meeting. Like the dandelions, she observed, women are strong. Their work spreads and survives everywhere.

Rev. John Congram commended the Society for its dedicated emphasis on mission through the years, and its leadership training of women. The Society confirmed its focus on education as a priority for the coming years.

The words of the hymn, *Frail as a summer's flowers we flourish; blow the wind and its gone*, come to mind. Our lives are frail, and our days are numbered like the blades of grass. But the spirit and the will to go and tell the story persists and endures. What better symbol than the dandelion to which to compare the work of faithful men and women. It's a sure thing—survival guaranteed!

Historic Editorial: May/June 2005

Editor's Thoughts
by Holly Wilson, Editor

In May and June we will celebrate Mother's and Father's Day. Mother's and Father's Day are not only times to remember our parents, or to be remembered as parents, but are occasions that give us the opportunity to think about our families and how we communicate with them.

At the core of our family relationships, we need to remember that we are all human. Our parents, sisters, brothers, children, grandparents, etc. are all human beings who are not perfect. This may easily be forgotten when you are frustrated with your sister for being so defensive, wondering why your husband or father rarely opens up to you, or why your children keep fighting. If we are willing to look deep into our relationships and see the members of our family as human beings, we will discover that they are doing the best they can with the skills they currently possess.

We sometimes have unrealistic expectations of family members—becoming disappointed when they don't meet all our needs. Jealousy, resentment, and fear are all examples of human qualities and it is likely that our family members will express these raw emotions at some point. After all, how often have we felt or expressed these very emotions ourselves?

As we celebrate Mother's and Father's Day, let us see our family members in full colour—their positive and negative qualities and accept them as they are. When you angry or hurt by family members, close your eyes and visualize them in your heart. When we hold family members close to our hearts, we are able to open ourselves to unconditional love and forgiveness. Ultimately, love can heal anything and even when you feel that you are not receiving love, you always have the choice to express your love for others.

Love without fear of rejection. Give freely—without expectation.

thank you!

Thank you to the many Editors, staff, and writers who have been involved with *Glad Tidings* over the years.

Glad T

It has been a joy and a challenge to go through *Glad Tidings* from the last 95 years. I could have filled many more pages with interesting articles, but hopefully the ones I have chosen will show some diversity and educate, inspire, and entertain you.

For the most part, I have left language unchanged, though I have edited some for space. You will certainly notice some great stories from our early missionaries, but also some language that might disturb us a little. Overall, I hope you enjoy them as much as I did discovering them! I was certainly surprised to see stories of pirates, tigers, and royalty. ~ Colleen Wood

First Edition, 1925:

Published by the Presbyterian Women's Missionary Society, Room 103 Harland Smith Building, Adelaide and Bay Sts., Toronto. A monthly magazine of the National and Overseas Missions. Price 35c. per year in parcels, 50c. in individual subscriptions, and 25c. for the balance of 1925.

Subscriptions run from January to January, and are payable in advance. Send all subscriptions and requests for samples through the Presbyterial Secretaries to Miss Jessie Parsons, Office of Publications, Room 103 Harland Smith Building, Adelaide and Bay Sts., Toronto.

Organization.:

"We find ourselves today in another epoch in our history, with an organization just as it always has been, lessened considerably in numbers

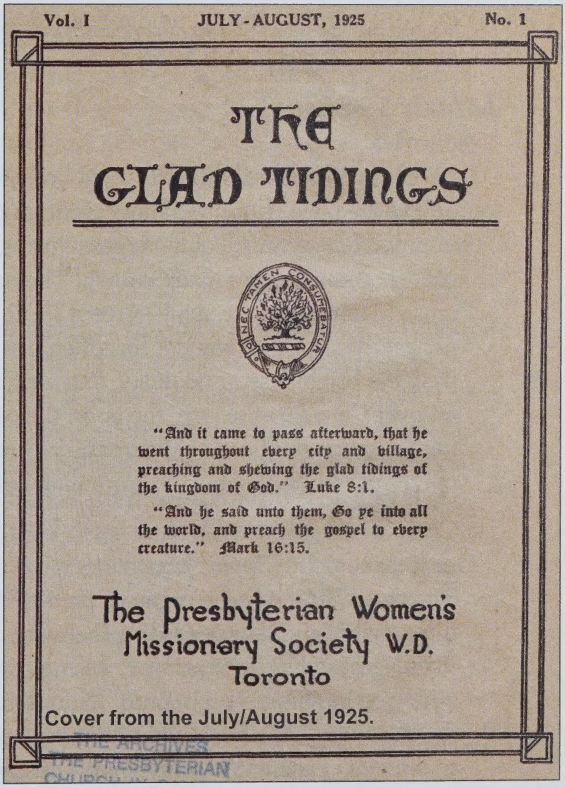
dings

HISTORIC BEGINNINGS

but not in enthusiasm," said Miss Bessie McMurchy in introducing her report on "Organization Returns."

We have golden numbers in our history—dates of organization: 1876, 1903, 1914, our Jubilee in 1924, and in 1925, our re-constitution.

Our aim is to keep up the lines of organization along which we have always worked. Our women know them and they will keep them going. There will be all the help of the past, speakers, missionaries, field secretaries, literature, and a magazine. We will have all this, and all else of good that your Board can devise, and when you tell us what you need, we will get if we can.


Vol. I JULY - AUGUST, 1925 No. 1

THE GLAD TIDINGS

"And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God." Luke 8:1.

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15.

The Presbyterian Women's Missionary Society W.D. Toronto

Cover from the July/August 1925.

THE ARCHIVES OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN

WMS President Mary McKerroll, 1925–1928

A Prayer for Purpose:

"Give me, O Christ, a glimpse of the unfinished enterprises of the world. Reveal to me the tasks that stand waiting for hearts and hands like mine. Wilt thou forgive me that in the past I have stood unseeing and untouched in from of vast human need? Guide my steps and purpose in life that will mean most for myself and for others. Direct my will and illumine my minds so that all temporary and unimportant purposes may be set on the circumstance of my life. Grant that my life ambition may have something to sacrifice in it. And in the day when my purpose proves most costly, grant unto me, O, Lord, an unswerving, whole-hearted, joyful devotion to its attainment and the doing of Thy will." Amen.

March 1926:

Editorial

The beautiful board room of Knox College, where our Council Executive now meets, has witnessed many gatherings, but for solemnity and impressiveness none could surpass that at which our financial returns for the past six months were made known. The moment was tense, as the Treasurer arose to announce the sum—$100,485.32. In the silence that followed, the present was for the moment forgotten, for we were seeing, in place of a dark past, the brightness of noonday, and we knew it was because our members all over Canada—the rich, the poor, the old, and even the little children, had not forgotten the Lord at His treasury. And the prayer of each heart was the outcry of the Psalmist: "The Lord hath done great things for us whereof we are glad!"

Our Responsibility to our Magazine:

The *Glad Tidings* is the organ of the WMS, and nowhere else can be found the same information regarding the work and workers under its care. After the magazine has been printed, it is necessary that it should be distributed as widely as possible, and in order to do this, many workers are necessary, from the Secretary of Publications and Assistant in Head Office, Toronto, down to the most distant Auxiliary Glad Tidings Secretaries. We have found that

it is best that the Presbyterial Secretaries report direct to the Head Office, on account of saving of time.

Be on the look-out for new subscribers—new members of the Society or congregation. Keep a supply of sample copies which you may obtain through your Presbyterial Secretary, to show, or distribute. Once in a while have a synopsis of *The Glad Tidings* read at your monthly meeting. Let it be short and concise, covering the different departments of the work, so that people will be anxious to read the full articles, and in time subscribe. Group the articles under headings, with a few words on each.

January 1927:

China in Wartime

by Miss Anna C.A. Cook (edited)

Notwithstanding apparent difficulties and daily rumors of floods, rains, washed-away roads, and many robberies, two of us—two mere women—made preparation for a tour among a number of out-stations.

The district, through which we were to travel, though every summer troubled with floods, was now suffering from the worst one in fifty years. We chartered a small house-boat, which would take us through the flooded regions to a district, where the water had done less harm to roads and where some land travel was possible. We followed the famous Grand Canal for some hours, then our boat simply passed through one of the big streaks of the East-dike forged her way over the submerged fields for the remaining three days' water trip.

Everywhere one looked there was water. A drowned body floated by: nobody seemed to wonder or care. Trees, sticking out of the water, showed where hamlets and villages had been, some treetops in a line indicated a road. The deadness and desolation of those wide stretches of water, led us to think of all the suffering, despair, and disappointment of those steady, hard-working farmers, who in these regions in the best of times have had such a struggle to exist, and now to see not only their fields bare and fruitless for at least one or two seasons, but even their houses melted away; no food, no roof, and a severe winter ahead. Possibly, there are families who have saved enough grain to last for a few months, but thousands and thousands will face sure starvation. And yet, as they stood there on those mudheaps, some old mats or a piece of the remaining roof as their only dwelling, they did not appear to be as desperate as one would have expected. And just that subdued expression on their faces made them look even more pathetic. "Fate has wanted it

In the afternoon a rowboat with two male passengers came alongside our ship and the men boarded her without any excuses ... I was not surprised anymore, when I was informed that they were pirates.

so" and on that thought they rest and no effort was made to prevent those repeated disasters.

And what about our comforts, or some might call them "discomforts?" They really are not worthwhile mentioning. When we see such indescribable conditions and realize the still worse future for these thousands of fellow-creatures, should we call it so bad, when we have to live with eleven people for three days in rather close quarters? We had our bedding to sit on and were almost protected against rain. Only we became somewhat stiff and cramped, as we could not stand up or walk. We had unusually good practice though in creeping, which reminded us for some days that we had knees!

The first day the weather was fine; the second day it rained so hard that we had to share our limited space with two men. Also the boat family, five in number, huddled as close as they could, to keep dry, not to speak of numerous flies, which always seemed to like crowded spots. After dark we stopped at a lonely house where the men found a shelter for the night. Their going enabled us to spread out our bedding on the floor and stretch our legs.

The condition of the country through which we sailed on the third day, was a great improvement to the district of Tsining. Although there was much flooded land, it was a relief to see dry fields and to pass by some villages in good shape.

One incident on our way I should not omit to mention. The water-covered fields through which we sailed on the first day were infested with pirates. In the afternoon a rowboat with two male passengers came alongside our ship and the men boarded her without any excuses. No objection to this was made by the boatmen, which I thought unusual. I was not surprised anymore, when I was informed that they were pirates. On seeing us, they very graciously assured us, that because we were women who preached the Gospel and did good they would not molest us. After a short while another boat came along, which they ordered to stop and take the men aboard. One of them was rather kind and smily, the other scowled. I suppose the last one was sorry to feel obliged to let such a good chance go; the first one perhaps smiled, because he

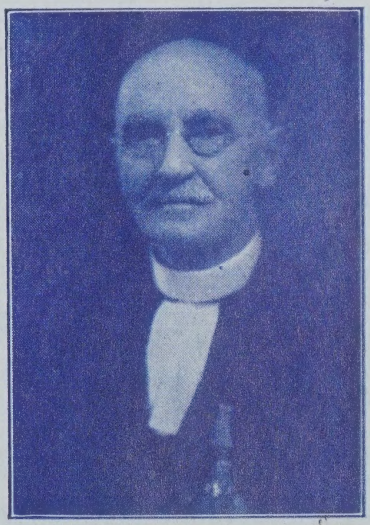
was glad that he had added for once a good deed to his many evil ones. And we were thankful to see the Lord's protecting hand so lovingly over us.

February 1928:

When Thou Prayest

Remember: To give praise and thanksgiving for a gospel that can save to the uttermost; for all who have gone forth with the message of life unto the ends of the earth; for God's many precious promises; for His abundant blessing upon our Church and work.

Pray: That the prayer life of the whole Church may be strengthened; that Church and Auxiliaries may grow in numbers, and in the grace of God.



OUR MISSIONARY MODERATOR
The Rev. John Buchanan, B.A., M.D., D.D.

Cover from the September 1928 issue.

The Missionaries Arrive at Amkhut

by Dr. J. Buchanan

"At 8:30 o'clock on October 18th, the three, the gift of the Church, Mr. Toombs, Miss McConnell and Miss Williamson, arrived. They were a bit late getting to Bhabra so they had, for the last part of the way, a venturesome dark ride on three ponies. The road between here and Bhabra has not yet had the rough places made smooth or the crooked places straight. In fact, the heavy rains this year made a very bad mess of the way, so coming in through the dark was an experience for the ladies who had never ridden. Miss McConnell came off one of the ponies, but was not hurt. She showed her good sense and adaptability to the ways of the country by hanging on to the pony's neck, and having the tumble on the nice soft sand of the river bed. They are quite fit.

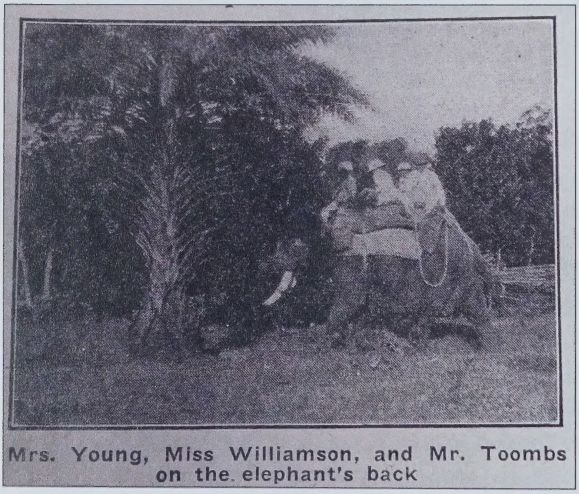
This morning Ruth had them with the Pandit around the dining table getting them started in Hindi. Then again this afternoon the Pandit is busy with them. Every day for a month till they go to Landour to the language school is marked out, and we hope they will have a good start at the language before

April 1st. We think we have got a very good Christian man as Pandit. He is to give those lessons jointly and separately, seven hours a day.

Miss Maxwell, not only passed her first examination in Hindi last March but took the oral examination second year, at the end of September, i.e. on dictation, reading at sight, conversation and a short address in Hindi, and she got first class. She is now writing the papers sent by the Examination Board for the remaining written examinations and seems to be doing well. She has taken four papers yesterday and to-day, and writes the last two tomorrow. After that she will likely give special attention to work in Sardi. They need help there so much in Bible study.

Good reports are coming from our young men and women—nineteen were sent out for further preparation. Soon with the missionaries getting the language, we shall have a little army to help win this Bhil land."

Exciting Days Because of a Tiger
by Miss Marion H. Williamson (edited)


Mrs. Young, Miss Williamson, and Mr. Toombs on the elephant's back

"While we were in Jobat, a panther came and took a cow from a herd that was pasturing in the fields at the rear of the bungalow, out towards the high hills. It came at ten o'clock in the morning. Word was sent to Rajah and he said to feed it and he would come to hunt it. Here all wild animals are preserved for sport. It is against the law to shoot even to save your cattle. A buffalo was tied out for the panther to eat and, of course, it took it in preference to the dead cow. I believe their habit is to kill one day and suck the blood, and the next day to come back for the meat. The beast also got two other buffaloes, but now the Rajah is hunting in the neighbourhood and perhaps Mr. Panther is no more."

"Since writing the first part of this letter, the panther has turned out to be a tiger. One day the Rajah's son was in this way looking for the beast. We were

in Rajpur and met him on his way home, but he has not got a shot at it. They did see it and said it was from eight to ten feet long. It has eaten four buffalos already. That was how they got suspicious that it was more than a common panther—when it took such large animals. The prince brought in an elephant from which to hunt. We went down yesterday morning to have a look at it. It is huge. Its keepers said we could have a ride if we came in the afternoon, so at about half-past four we went down. Mrs. Young, Mr. Toombs, and I had quite a jaunt on it."

January 1929:

Brief History of the Day of Prayer

by M.C.F.G. (edited)

The World Day of Prayer will be observed throughout North America on February 15th. The day and service has grown to something so great and far reaching that our pen fails when it attempts to picture its wonder and power.

As is well known, the first week in January has, for a great many years, been set apart for prayer by the Christian churches throughout the world and, for a long time, it was the custom of the Women's Missionary Society (W.D.) of The Presbyterian Church in Canada to appropriate one of these days (the Friday preferably) for special prayer for the work of its Society, and for this service a suitable programme was provided. This was purely a prayer meeting for the Presbyterian women, and is still observed.

With the drawing together of different denominations, there came the vision of a federation of the Women's Missionary Boards of Canada, and the one thing on which it felt all could unite was an inter-denominational prayer meeting, and, on January 9, 1920, the Dominion-wide Inter-denomination Prayer Meeting was instituted. This meeting was held for two consecutive years, the programme being prepared by the Interim Committee of the Women's Mission Boards of Canada, to suit the five denominations then interested—Anglican, Methodist, Congregational, Baptist, and Presbyterian.

Turning now to the United States, we find that the Federation of Women's Boards of Foreign Missions of North America, and the Council of Women for Home Missions, which had previously held separate prayer meetings, came together in 1920. Two years later, the Mission Boards of Canada were approached by the Women's Federated Boards of the United States and asked if they would unite with them in a nation-wide interdenominational Women's Day of Prayer for Missions, to be held on March 3rd, 1922. The request appealed to the Executive Board of the Presbyterian W.M.S., but before

Every year since its inception, [the World Day of Prayer] has seen a widening fellowship of believing women uniting in prayer for missions throughout the earth.

action was taken, the opinion of their six Provincial Societies was asked, together with the opinion of the denominations with which they were linked, and, in every instance, the decision to hold such a meeting was unanimous. Thus it came about that, from end to end of North America, on March 3, 1922, the women whose hearts were fired by missionary zeal, unitedly sought through the ministry of intercession to renew their allegiance to Christ, and so become more truly His helpers in the bringing in of His Kingdom.

Every year since its inception, this day has seen a widening fellowship of believing women uniting in prayer for missions throughout the earth. This year, as last year, the observance is worldwide, and our hearts thrill with anticipation as we approach the day when Christian women and girls of all lands unite in prayer for the work of Christ the world around.

It will be literally true on February 15th, that, "From the rising of the sun until the going down of the same, the Lord's name is to be praised."

January 1930:

Mission Bands: A New Year's Message

by Laura A. Dill.

Dear Girls and Boys:

A Happy New Year to you all! This year, 1930, you will be studying about our work in Canada and other lands.

In one of the overseas countries—China—at New Year, the people, old and youth, wish each other "New Happiness." The women and children dress in their very best clothes and wear bright coloured flowers in their hair, the boys pin theirs on their coats. They call on their friends and give presents of good things to eat. The children love New Year's Day as you love our glad Christmas, and the celebrations lasts three days.

In Japan, New Year's Day is everybody's birthday. If a baby comes to a home two days before New Year's Day, he or she is counted as one year old until the next New Year. The children are allowed to play in special yards that day and their favorite game is battle-dore and shuttle-cock. Then, too, they receive and give gifts.

One cause for thankfulness for us all at this glad time is, that now, in thousands of Christian homes in those two countries, as well as in other countries, the people have "cast their idols all away" and now give thanks to God for His great gift, Jesus their Saviour.

My New Year's wish is that the Mission Band members as Candles of Love will let your light shine brightly at home, at school, at play, when you meet to pray, study, give and work that the Gospel Light may shine on the children of the world.

June 1930

Missionary Activities at Camp

by Isabel Hyslop (edited)

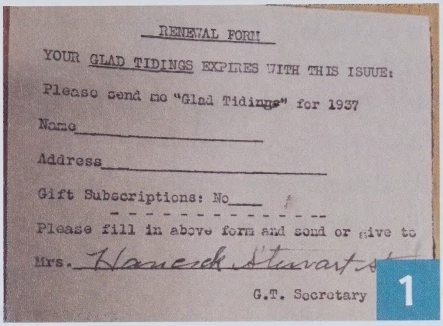
Every summer many of our keenest, most enthusiastic girls attend Canadian Girls in Training camps and Summer Schools. The programme is a varied one and affords scope for many interests, but always "first things are placed first." Bible study, worship, and missionary education occupy much thought and time during busy camp days.

Those of us who accept the responsibility of this missionary education either for the whole camp period or for perhaps only a day or so, must realize the opportunity, the responsibility, yes, even more the challenge that is ours.

Let us ever remember that a teen-age girl lives in the realm of many interests, one of which may or may not be missionary. So as we approach our group of girls, our first task may be to convince the girls of the interest and the need of missions. To merely state statistics or even quote the fascinating stories of the work in the mission fields may prove useless unless the listeners themselves feel the need and the enthusiasm of the work. Because of this I maintain that very often at camp our task is not to give information about our mission fields but rather to pave the way—to arouse the interest that will send the girls from camp to their various churches eager and anxious to have their group spend much time during the winter months not only studying the missionary work of the church, but in useful service. Once a teen-age girl sees the need, and catches the enthusiasm and the spirit of missions, the response is not lacking.

If we are only present at camp for a few days, we will probably be most concerned with giving definite information about our Presbyterian mission fields. This may be done in various ways.

1. Arrange a missionary programme for one of the campfires. Have the girls plan and conduct a worship service based on a missionary theme.



RENEWAL FORM

YOUR GLAD TIDINGS EXPIRES WITH THIS ISSUE:

Please send me "Glad Tidings" for 1937

Name_____

Address_____

Gift Subscriptions: No___

Please fill in above form and send or give to

Mrs. Hancock Stewart

G.T. Secretary

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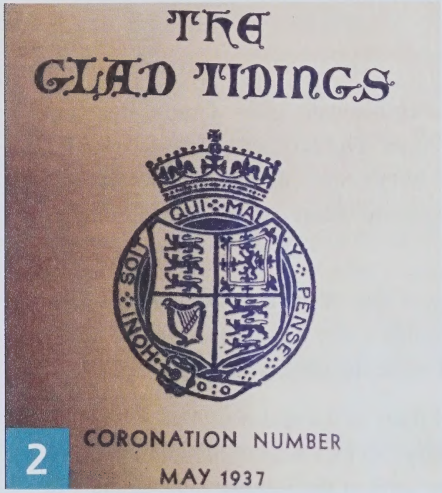


THE GLAD TIDINGS

QUI MALY PENSE

CORONATION NUMBER

MAY 1937

2

Their Majesties

ng George VI

Queen Elizabeth

3

4

Photos: 1. 1937—Renewal Form; 2. May 1937—Coronation; 3. May 1937—Their Majesties Cover; 4. July/August 1938—The nurses at morning worship, MacKay Memorial Hospital, Taiwan.

2. Plan to meet the girls in small groups where the atmosphere is informal and encourage the girls to take part in discussion and to ask questions.
3. Have as many pictures as possible and give some to each tent to study. Then have a contest in which the girls see how many of the pictures they know something about.
4. Assign a mission field to each tent—give them some material about that field (take back numbers of *Glad Tidings* with you or any informative books on the subject). At one of the campfires, have a representative from each tent tell something of the work in that place.
5. Have the girls plan and write letters to be sent to our various missionaries telling of camp.

Other ideas will suggest themselves to those who earnestly and thoughtfully seek to interest our teen-age girls. However we may plan our work, let us

ever remember that the leader herself must be afire with enthusiasm and devotion for the work. She must have a genuine love for and interest in girls, and added to this a firm belief in the power of Christ.

"The glory is not in the task but in the doing it for God."

A Bible Conference in Hong Kong

by Miss Ethel C. Reid (edited)

Hong Kong, during the week of August 11th, witnessed a striking demonstration of the keen and reverent interest by Chinese residents, old and young alike, in the Christian movement. The occasion was the annual Pooi Ling Bible Conference, an interdenominational gathering arranged by the Protestant Church, which aims at the deepening of spiritual life amongst Christian workers. Ten-day conferences were held both in Canton and in Hong Kong. In both centres, the meetings attracted wider and deeper interest than ever before.

The meetings were marked by profound interest on the part of the Chinese, the Church being packed to its utmost every day. Standing room was even at a premium, and so large were the audiences that for those who could not gain admission, the addresses of the speakers were broadcast by loud speakers to large audiences in the courtyard of the church. The speakers held the interest of their hearers from start to finish by the earnestness and logic of their remarks, and it was noteworthy that so many of those who attended were young men and women.

Following the Conference, four evenings devoted to evangelistic work were arranged to be held in Lee Gardens. The first of these was held on Sunday, when the Gardens were packed. With the aid of loud speakers, the addresses were audible in every part of the Gardens. It is estimated that there must have been fully 10,000 people there and a feature was the reverent attitude of all present.

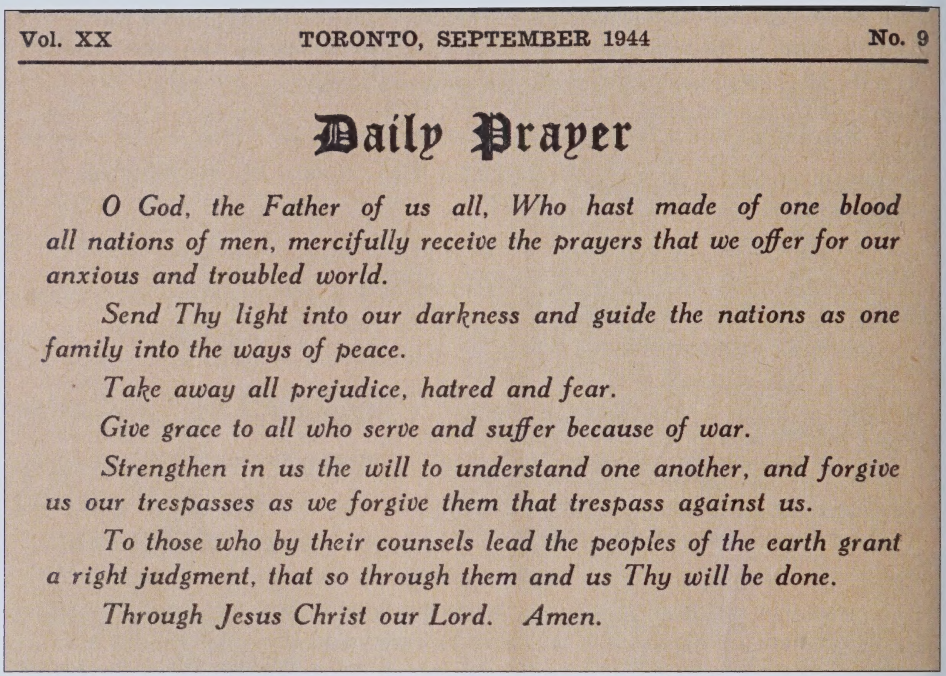
1938:

WANTED—Zealous *Glad Tidings* Secretaries, who go out after subscriptions and see that magazines are distributed promptly. The success of the subscription list lies in your hands.

September 1939:

Opening of the Weirdale Nursing Home (edited)

On the 8th of July, 1939, a large number of people from the Weirdale district of northern Saskatchewan gathered for the official opening of the Weirdale



Vol. XX TORONTO, SEPTEMBER 1944 No. 9

Daily Prayer

O God, the Father of us all, Who hast made of one blood all nations of men, mercifully receive the prayers that we offer for our anxious and troubled world.

Send Thy light into our darkness and guide the nations as one family into the ways of peace.

Take away all prejudice, hatred and fear.

Give grace to all who serve and suffer because of war.

Strengthen in us the will to understand one another, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive them that trespass against us.

To those who by their counsels lead the peoples of the earth grant a right judgment, that so through them and us Thy will be done.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer printed in every issue of Glad Tidings during the war.

Nursing Home, which was completed by the Women's Missionary Society, Western Division, of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

The Rev. R. G. McKay introduced Miss Mary Lyons, Superintendent of the new nursing home, Miss Isobel Sym, assistant, and Mrs. Ralston, after expressing her pleasure at being present at the opening and referring to the way in which the Women's Missionary Society had willingly answered the appeal of the people of Weirdale for financial assistance, and presented to Miss Lyons, on behalf of the Society, a Bible for the nursing home and the key to the building, where, she hoped, the patients treated would be helped in spirit as well as body.

All present signed the visitors' book, and were shown by members of the Weirdale Auxiliary around the new nursing home, an attractive building, well equipped for the services it was to render to the community.

"The Weirdale Nursing Home," the report says, "is a very modern and beautiful building, a credit to the Women's Missionary Society of Canada, which was responsible for its erection."

1942:

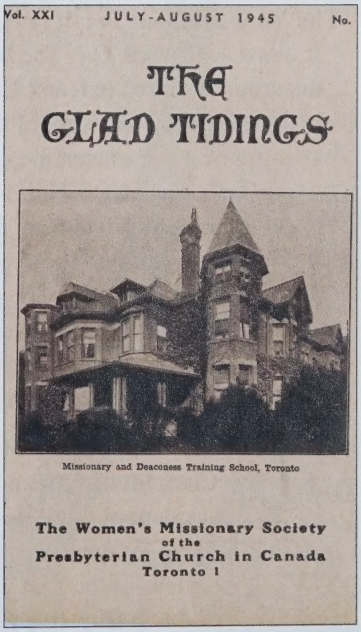
An Appeal to Church Workers

by Byrne Sanders, Director, Consumer Branch

Many of our women's organizations all across Canada will now be thinking very seriously of plans for their Fall and Winter activities: sewing meetings, sales and bazaars for raising money to carry on their social work, and the many other meetings for discussion and study.

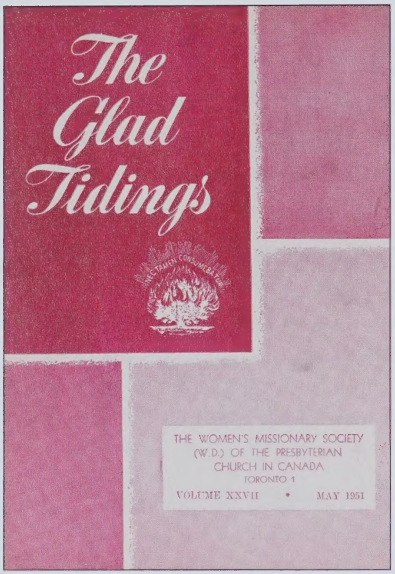
Into the minds of most of those whose work it is to organize these activities will come the thought: How is the rationing of tea, coffee and sugar going to affect our time-honoured plans and customs? The answer is, of course, that it is going to affect them so fundamentally that the women concerned will have to do some hard thinking. They must make up their minds that new methods have to be found to meet a new situation, if their really worth-while activities are not to suffer complete eclipse.

The first hard fact to swallow is that there will definitely be no extra allowance made for any of the three-rationed commodities—tea, coffee and sugar—for any social meeting, cooking sale, or similar function. The situation is much too serious to allow for exceptions to be made. But when we accept this as part of our new pattern for war-time living, there does not seem any real reason to despair. Because we have got into the habit of serving tea and coffee and sweet cakes at social and church suppers, it does not mean that there are absolutely no alternatives. Fruit juices are still obtainable, homemade soups and bouillon provide a hot drink, and innumerable varieties of sandwiches both sweet and savoury can take the place of sweet cakes and cookies.



For cooking sales, ingenuity suggests the holding of no-sugar baking contests and the sale or distribution of particularly successful recipes.

Finally, for the more intimate meeting where the cup of tea has a definite significance, the arrival of the chosen guests each with her own small contribution for the



common pot will add considerably to the atmosphere of comradeship. There is nothing in the new ration orders which forbids this communal gesture.

At the close of three years of the most devastating war in history, Canadians are being called upon to begin making minor sacrifices in some of their ways of living. Compared to those made in other countries, these sacrifices seem very trivial indeed and give no cause for grumbling. Here is a big change for church workers to set a grand example and prove how with a little thought and ingenuity all their customary activities can proceed as usual—indeed, if necessary, be expanded to meet the demands of war-time conditions.

1950:

The Vans are Sent Forth (PICS)

It was a cool April day. The bright sun shone with little warming effect upon the group gathered at Knox College grounds in the city of Toronto. Not for long was the group aware of the chilling winds, for warm interest and keen attention were characteristic of all as the two "stars" of the afternoon took the centre of the stage. The "stars" were none other than the two shiny, blue panel trucks which had been driven from the garage to the College for a service of dedication. They were dedicated for use in Northern Alberta and Northern Saskatchewan. The purpose in sending such missionary vans is that areas which are not easily accessible to church workers may, this summer, have the benefit of church services and religious education through Bible vacation schools and through Sunday School classes.

The service was conducted by Reverend Alexander McLean and Reverend W. T. McCree, Moderator and Clerk of Toronto East Presbytery. Mrs. Arthur W. Pae, President of the Women's Missionary Society, W.D., stated that it was a privilege for the Society to provide these and their equipment together with the services of the four young women who will operate them under the direction of the Presbyteries indicated.

Supported and Supporting

It is a priority of the WMS to support our WMS groups. There are lots of great resources available from the past, ready for the asking, or coming your way.

WMS Resources:

WMS Studies (past)

If you haven't used the past WMS studies that were printed in *Glad Tidings*, they can be found on the WMS website: https://www.wmspcc.ca/wms-study/

There are 28 studies on seven different themes, just waiting for you to dive in!

WMS Studies (future)

The 2020–21 Study will be sent to groups in the WMS summer mailing. The Study is on Women of Mission and it will include four studies:

- Historical Women of the WMS
- Recent WMS Mission Staff
- WMS Women Serving Today
- Women Continue to Serve

These studies will be posted on our website and available from the office. Please make sure we have a current contact for your group to get this great package of resources!

WMS Worship Services

The WMS summer mailing will include two worship services: Thanksgiving and Christmas.

PCC Resources

Stories of Mission

In this resource, you will find stories

of people—from across Canada and around the world—sharing God's love, hope, peace, and justice with those around them. Through your prayers and gifts to Presbyterians Sharing, Presbyterian World Service & Development, the Women's Missionary Society, and Atlantic Mission Society, you are helping to support the mission and ministry featured in these stories.

Each story includes a reflection, discussion questions, hymn suggestions and a prayer, so you can use this resource as a mission study or Bible study. You could also share the stories as part of a sermon series.

Congregations and PCC groups have permission to use and copy all or any part of this document. Include stories in newsletters, incorporate them into sermons, and reflect on them in Bible studies. Feel free to be creative!

Stories of Mission is available from the PCC national office or can be found at: https://presbyterian.ca/sharing/stories-of-mission/

PCC Mission Staff

Learn more about the work of current PCC Mission staff at: https://presbyterian.ca/im/missionstaff/

You can easily turn a mission biography into a meeting resource by following a simple format, such as:

Open in Prayer

Sing a hymn with a mission focus:

587 Called as partners in Christ's service
652 Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go
491 God bless your church with strength
480 In Christ there is no east or west

563 Let us talents and tongues employ
778 Lord, you give the great commission

Read a Bible passage with a mission focus:
Mark 16:9–20, Romans 10:1–15, Acts 13:1–3, Isaiah 6:1–8, 1 Samuel 3:1–10, 1 Corinthians 13:1–13, Matthew 9:35–38

Read the biography of the staff person and a blog, if available.

Learn something about the country they are working in and present this to the group.

Consider questions such as:
- How is this person serving in mission?
- What might be difficult about their situation?
- Why do you think their work is important?

Pray for this staff person giving thanks to God for their work and asking God's presence on them.

As well, consider hosting a mission speaker for a larger event. To learn how to invite a mission speaker to your gathering, visit: https://presbyterian.ca/im/missionspeakers/

Justice Ministries

Justice Ministries, PCC, has several online resources available for study. Do you want to learn about the Rohingya in Myanmar, more about our work with Indigenous Peoples or ways to celebrate Earth Day in April? Visit: https://presbyterian.ca/resources/justice-resources/

Presbyterian World Service & Development

Presbyterian World Service & Development has online information sheets that provide excellent information for a meeting. Go to https://presbyterian.ca/pwsd/where-we-work/ and choose the country you are most interested in.

Available from the WMS office

The WMS office has the following resource available that you can borrow:

Half the Sky:
The Half the Sky movement is working to put an end to the oppression of women and girls around the world. This resource consists of videos and a written book. The video is challenging, but important and covers 10 countries—each one can be used on its own.

Easter Worship

by Margaret Robertson

Gathering:

In these moments we gather our thoughts around the Easter story. We remember what happened so long ago and what it means for our lives today. Let us now worship in God's presence.

Hymn: # 248 – At the dawning of salvation

Prayer:

God of grace and God of glory, we come before you in awe and wonder. Your power over our lives amazes us and your depth of love surrounds us in the joys and sorrows of life. Yet we fail to praise you when we should. We shun people who are not like us. We like the familiar people and things in life. We miss the wide array of experiences and knowledge that we could gain from thinking beyond our normal patterns. Forgive us and help us to be open to the new possibilities as we hear the Easter story once again. Amen.

Scripture: John 20:1–18

Reflection: What's the Big Deal about Easter?

What's the big deal about Easter? Why are we drawn to this story? Why do so many go to church on Easter Sunday? Do we go to hear something new or to hear the old, old story once again? Do we go out of force of habit? Or do we wonder if it's really true.

Easter is a story of surprises. We like surprises (at least most of us do). Along with the children, many adults like the surprises of Easter morning. Where are the Easter eggs hidden? What did the children receive? Easter is about theological surprises as well. It is about finding the tomb empty and going away to tell the story.

There are several versions of what happened on that first Easter morning. John records that it was Mary Magdalene who went to the tomb while it was still dark, wondering how she would roll the stone away, only to find the tomb open and the body gone.

While it was still dark... It is important to remember that the tomb was outside the security of the city walls—an area avoided by most people—and certainly

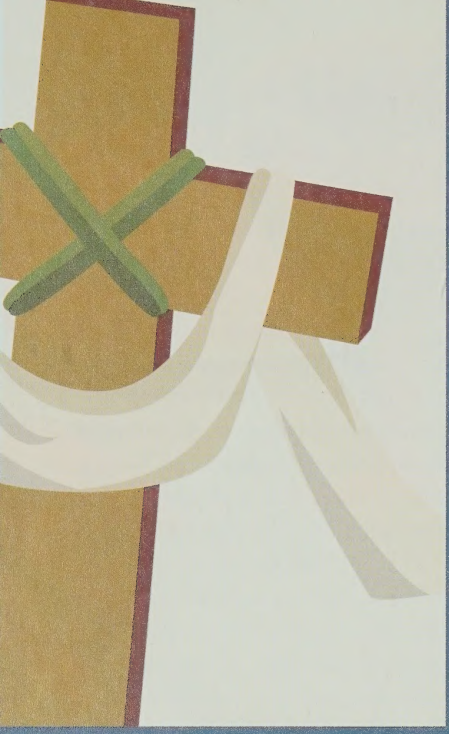
not the ideal place for a woman to be walking alone. In this act we see Mary's boldness, determination, and strength. We also see her devotion to Jesus.

When she arrived at the tomb, she *saw that the stone had been removed...So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple...saying, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him."* (NRSV) She had every right to run. Was she scared, excited, and/or anxious? Remember, this could be a dangerous place.

It was not a surprise that she would forget—nor will we—even though we know the end of the story. She runs to find Simon Peter and the other disciple whom Jesus loved. The beloved disciple—the one who is never named and thus speculation about who he was—maybe John himself?

Mary Magdalene, not one of the 'official' disciples, is the first one to find the empty tomb. We also remember a Samaritan woman who took on the role of a disciple. These were women who lived on the edge of the community. They are the ones who see, believe, and go out to witness—Mary Magdalene to Peter and the beloved disciple, and the Samaritan woman to her whole village.

Sometimes the disciples in our lives are not the ones we expect. Often, we remember children's pageants where the young actors don't follow the script, but do something delightful that take us to a new understanding of faith.



The Easter story is a story of surprises. The Easter story tells us about an outsider (Mary Magdalene) who becomes an insider, who becomes the central figure in believing and telling the story.

Think of a time when you have discovered new insight into an event or story. It was, or is, an "I got it!" moment. Over and over, you have heard or read the same things, then suddenly it all becomes clear or teaches you something new.

For example, have you noticed in the Easter story that boundaries never contained Jesus? Even the stone guarding the tomb did not keep him in. Jesus entered rooms to heal, to speak, to teach. Jesus refused to be confined by space. Remember when the devil tempted him three times on a mountain. (Matthew 4:8ff) His only direction came from God. He was not confined by human voice or opinion.

What does this teach us? Think of times when voices have contradicted the popular flow. If the majority thinks one way, it is hard for an individual or a small group to maintain their original opinion.

What does this tell us about what we believe? Who would guess that a woman would be the first to proclaim, "I have seen the Lord!" The Easter story tells us that outsiders can become insiders.

The Easter story speaks to us in a way we had not expected. Easter rolls the stone door of the tomb away for us so that we might penetrate the mystery of death. God rolls the door of the tomb away not to let Jesus out—but to let us in. We see that Christ's promises are true.

We are surprised when our stones are rolled away. Burdens are lifted. The weight of the stone is taken away. A new day has come.

Notice the verbs in the story. Mary ran to tell the disciples what she had found. The two raced— neck in neck—back to see what she told them. Mary must have gone with them for we have the dialogue between her and the angels, then as she turns around to see the gardener, no, Jesus. He calls her name. It is at this moment that we understand that she understands. She announces, "I have seen the Lord!"

The unconditional love that Jesus has poured out all over Galilee, Judea, and even Samaria has come back in one sentence. "I have seen the Lord!"

God, our creator God, knows us before we were born, throughout our whole life, and beyond life. God does not abandon us at any time. Just as the unborn child does not know what world it is coming into, we do not know what lies ahead. But we do know that the stone was moved, the tomb was empty, death was overcome, and that the love of God that was strong enough to endure sin is also mighty enough to surmount death.

Judas still lives among us in tragic misery. Peter still declares his faith today and renounces it tomorrow. The women are still marginalized in many places. There are still the good and the bad, the brave and the frightened, the weak and the strong—all who are in need of a love they may desperately want and cannot find. They are all of us.

So, what's the big deal about Easter?
Each time we come to the story it is new.
Yes, it is full of surprises.
Yes, we know an outsider becomes the messenger.
But did it speak to us in a new way? Is the story so scary or exciting that we run to tell others what we have seen? The good news that Jesus Christ holds for us is the birth of a new life.

Remember that nothing, *neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God.* (Rom 8:38f, NRSV)

What's the big deal about Easter?

Easter reinforces God's unconditional love:

- love that goes beyond all understanding
- love that bonds us with Christ and is always present through God's Holy Spirit
- love that will not let us go!

Hymn: #258 – Thine be the glory

Prayer:

God of all Easters,
we come to give our thanksgiving and praise.
On that first Easter morning, you called Mary by name.
And on every Easter morning, you call each of us by name:
and our hearts are filled with joy.

Yet in our joy, we hear others crying in pain. Call us together so we can leave the tombs behind us to run out and tell the story, the good news as Mary did.

Today, we pray for all who worship here and around the world. May the good news of Jesus' life and death and resurrection heal us all. May it put all our 'deaths' behind us and teach us how to run forward.

Loving and generous God, you have taught us how to love you. May we now share what we have learned with all whom we live and meet, in the name of Jesus who died and rose for us. Amen.

Offering:

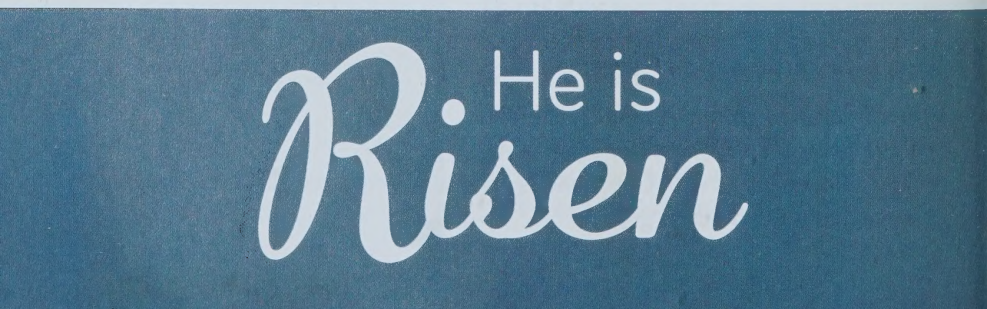
Mary ran from the tomb, perhaps in fear, but when she returned, Jesus called her by name. Let us return our love to the God who calls us by name as we now present our gifts and our offering.

Offering Prayer:

O God, this offering is but a token of our love. Bless it and teach us how to use it as we witness the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Benediction:

Knowing how much God loves you
Run into the world
to tell the good news
and share the unconditional love of Jesus,
in the name of God
our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.



Renewal

by June Campbell
January/February 2006

Love crept in
Wrapping itself around
our animosities,
Squeezing the life
out of them.
Where did they go?
Who cares!

Joy! Peace! Love!
Dare we believe in it?
Yes, because
We're experiencing it!

Trust! Believe! Live!
(He was here all this time.)

Gratitude! Adoration! Awe and wonder!
To the Enabler!

My soul will be on its knees
Perhaps forever,
Worshipping in amazement
At his results!

How did he do it?

Who cares!

Laughter! Fun! Life!

Go with it!
Go with Him!
Go with God!

Alleluia!

Service of Worship

Call to Worship:

Kings fall down before Him,
And gold and incense bring;
All nations shall adore Him,
His praise all people sing;
For He shall have dominion
O'er river, sea, and shore,
For as the eagle's pinion
Of dove's light wing can soar.

Hymn: Joy to the world! The Lord is come

Leader: All through the Scriptures, beginning with Genesis, there runs like a crimson cord the promise of a Saviour who would "bruise the head of the serpent". This crimson cord can be most clearly seen in the message of the prophet Isaiah, whose name means, "The Salvation of Jehovah"; for more than seven hundred years before the birth of Christ he foretold His coming. Let us listen to his words:

1st Reader: Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall his name be Immanuel.

The people that walked in the darkness have seen a great light; they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

For unto us a child is born, unto us is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom to order it; and to establish it with judgement and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots.

And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of fear of the Lord.

O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, behold your God! He shall feed his flock like a shepherd; he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

And in the writings of the prophet Micah we find:
And though, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from old, from everlasting.

Hymn: Hark the glad sound

Leader: In the Gospel according to St. Luke, he tells us of the glorious fulfilment of these prophesies. Following the appearance of the angel Gabriel, Mary goes to visit her cousin Elizabeth and St. Luke records her hymn of thanksgiving and praise.

2nd Reader: St. Luke 1:46–56

Leader: Come, we must go straight to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.

3rd Reader: St. Luke 2:1–20

Hymn: O little town of Bethlehem

Prayer: (by one appointed)

Offering: (carols played softly)

Dedication: O thou who didst send thy Son, a tiny Babe, to live among us and to die for us, we pray Thee to accept our gifts not only of the money, but of our time, our talents, our whole lives, as we dedicate them now to Thee. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Amen.

Hymn: Silent night! Holy night!

December 1973, Christmas Worship, Service of Worship by Olive Grant

India Connections

by Janet Brewer

In January, Sarah Kim, Cathy Reid, and Janet Brewer visited India on a monitoring trip. For many years, efforts were made to administer our various India funds. After time, it became apparent that a trip was necessary to manage these growing funds. The trip was very beneficial, and we were able to provide direct support to the women of Bhopal diocese, among other things.

Story after story, memory after memory…that was our experience with Pauline Brown, recently, in India. She spoke of how things were when she first arrived as a nurse in the Jobat area in 1951. She would introduce us to people in the area as, "This is…I knew his grandfather." and regale us with family histories that she remembers. At 94, Pauline is the matriarch of the area and a beloved "auntie" to many. Our time with Pauline spanned five days and we felt that it was a wonderful blessing to us.

Sarah Kim, Cathy Reid, and I travelled to India in January 2020 to reconnect with people, especially women, in the Vindhya Sapura area of Jobat, Amkhut, Mendha, and Alirajpur. We also spent time in New Delhi and Indore, ending our trip with a couple of days in Mumbai.

In Delhi, we met with Dr. Priya John, Jancy Johnson, and Imtimenla (Amen) Aier representing the Christian Medical Association India (CMAI), an organization that serves as a Christian network of hospitals and healthcare professionals

promoting medical care in hard-to-reach communities through its member institutions or by direct technical inputs.

From Delhi, we flew to Indore where we were met by some of the men from Jobat, including the Rev. Emmanuel Ariel. We received the traditional welcome of floral leis. We also met Pauline there and we all visited with the staff and students of the Mid-India Board of Education Graduate School for Nurses (an affiliated college of the CMAI and well-supported over the years by the PCC and WMS). They have just had their classroom building renovated by funding from Presbyterians Sharing through International Ministries. Their students were in the midst of Board exams, but still spent some time with us.

From Indore, we travelled by car to Jobat, a three-and-a-half hour drive. I was impressed to see that roads had been improved since the last time I was there, and what used to be a five to six hour drive was much shorter! We were greeted by students and staff from the Jobat School, the nursing school, and the hospital, and gifted with layer after layer of flower leis. We stayed in the women's residence, "up the hill" and ate our meals, daily, with Pauline.

While there, we attended the Vindhya Sapura Christian Women's Fellowship meeting and had a lovely day with them. We also toured the high school, hostel, and hospital on the Jobat compound that we were shown with great pride.

We visited the people and churches in Mendha and Alirajpur, and when driving to these towns, we noticed the harvesting of cotton and the new winter crops of wheat and other grains growing in the fields. With the collection of rain water during the monsoons and subsequent irrigation, a second crop is possible during the dry season that gives work and food to the people in the area. This is something new and exciting that is happening.

Our trip seemed short. It was over before we knew it and our time to say goodbye to our fellow Christians in Jobat came quickly. We promised to share their stories and promised to pray for them and the work they were doing in the area. We were blessed by them and we hope, our presence helped them know that men and women of the PCC thought about and prayed for them.

FEBRUARY 1959

Sharing in Canadian Missions ... A Presbytery Deaconess Reports!

"During the past year, one of the main phases of my work has been as extension project. There have been many visits to homes of interested families and hundreds of letters sent out to keep this new work before the eyes of the people of the neighbourhood.

Progress has been made in the church school in this area and we now have an enrollment of 25 children with 4 teachers. This group meets in the basement of a private home where we are very crowded. We are looking forward to using for our church school the recreation room of the new manse.

Since October, an Explorer group has been meeting each week in the basement of another private home. We are grateful for chairs and benches loaned to us to take care of the seating accommodation for the children.

During May, congregations in the Presbytery were visited on behalf of our Girls' camp programme. Such planning and publicity went to the preparation for this camp, which we think was a very successful one. There were 50 girls and a staff of 12 leaders, who worked well together and made a very happy and worthwhile experience for all. Plans are now underway for a camp rally of all those who attended last year and those who hope to attend next summer.

In July, I decided to venture into a co-operative Vacation Bible School. Three church (Presbyterian, Baptist, and United) participated, and the result was so worthwhile that it has been suggested for the coming summer. There were 15 workers, some from each Church and other interested friends, and an enrollment of 80 children. We used the Westminster Press Vacation Bible School materials. On the final evening, a parents' night was held, and a donation of approximately $31.00 was sent to the Canadian Council of Churches' project for Vacation Schools.

Throughout the year, visits were made periodically to other centres in the Presbytery. Mention should be made too, of the assistance given in interdenominational activities such as the C.G.I.T., Board, and Inter-Church rallies."

The above account of the year's work depicts the type of work done by a Presbytery Deaconess. Deaconesses serving in Presbyteries where there are many rural fields would have much the same type of programme, except that they would have the problem of transportation, which the above-mentioned Deaconess does not have.

A STRONG RELATIONSHIP

by Colleen Wood

Article after article from early editions of *Glad Tidings* feature diaconal ministers. The WMS was involved in their training right from the start when the *Women's Foreign and Home Missionary Society* saw the need for a school where women could receive practical and Biblical training. It was in 1897 that the dream became a reality with the opening of Ewart Missionary Training Home, even before there was an official Order of Deaconesses.

Just as the WMS supported the Order of Deaconesses the deaconesses supported the WMS as staff within Canada and overseas. In the early years, the WMS sent deaconesses to serve in churches, health care, and schools, and as social workers and welcome workers. They were often involved in ministry with children and youth, but also served in congregations without ministers, often taking on the worship services in remote areas.

Until very recently, the WMS continued to support Diaconal Ministers as regional staff, and within the office. Margaret Robertson, and Charlotte Brown are recent WMS staff members and members of the Diaconal Order; Lynda Reid, Christine Ball, Ann Blane, and Tori Smit are just a few of the regional staff that have been supported by the WMS.

To learn more about the work of the Diaconal Order read, "From the Bottom Up, A Story of Collegial Leadership" by Joyce Davis.

A Look at the Board of World Mission

by Rev. L. Louis De Groot

What does it mean for the Presbyterian Church in Canada to have this new Board, the Board of World Mission? Many people in our congregations, especially women, are asking this question quite frequently. Our women have long been used to the W.M.S. directing its own missionary activities. That has now come to an end with the formation of this new Board, for under this Board the missionary work of the W.M.S. has been integrated with the with the work of the former General Board of Missions.

This integration had its origin in the General Assembly of 1967 which had before it an overture from the Synod of the Maritime Provinces asking that steps be taken to integrate and unify the mission work of the Church under one Assembly Board composed of both men and women representing all mission.

In response to this overture, the Assembly appointed at committee to deal with this matter. In the first couple of years of the committee's activity progress was slow. This was not due to unwillingness on the part of any of the parties involved, but rather to the deep concern of everyone that nothing or real value or importance should be lost in the merger.

The Board of World Mission came into existence in June 1971. This did not mean, however, that all the necessary work for the smooth and effective functioning had already been done. The setting up of all the required new machinery was actually not completed until January 1, 1973, when the final stage of the restructuring process came into operation.

It should be noted that in the process of integration, considerable work was done also to restructure the Board and its committees for more efficient operation. This added a good deal of study and consideration to the work already in hand.

The questions readers of this publication will ask is this: did the women gain or lose in the setting up of the Board of World Mission? It is the opinion of the writer of this article that the whole Presbyterian Church has gained in the new set-up.

The following points should be of special interest to the women of our Church:

1. In the Board of World Mission there are forty-four members; nine of these are nominations of the W.M.S. (W.D.); three are nominated by

the W.M.S. (E.D.), and the President of the W.M.S. (W.D.) is also a member.

2. The Executive of the Board is made up of fifteen members, of which number three are from the W.M.S. (W.D.) and one from the W.M.S. (E.D.).
3. Either the Chairman of the Board or the Vice-Chairman must be a woman.
4. Two of the eight members for the Secretarial Staff are women: Miss Mary Whale, formerly Director for Overseas Missions of the W.M.S., and Miss Giollo Kelly, formerly Director for Home Mission of the W.M.S.
5. It is the agreed principle of the merger that the staff serving under the National and Overseas Departments of the W.M.S. (W.D.) become part of the staff of the Board of World Mission, with the assurance that their services will be continued as long as their ministry is satisfactory.

Essential Change

There is another question which is often asked in regard to the new Board—is there an essential change in the approach to missions in this Board? This question is asked because of the misunderstanding on the part of some of the documents which came out of the Waterloo Consultation in June, 1971. It appears to some that emphasis on development and liberation replace the emphasis on evangelism in the missionary task of the Church. The Waterloo Consultation made it very clear to us that Christian service must always accompany the proclamation of the Gospel; that the Gospel must always be both in word and in deed. There is no ground whatever for the fear that social action is replacing evangelism as the main thrust of the missionary activity sponsored by the Board of World Missions.

Manpower and Finances

In the present world situation the task of the Board is not easy, for both at home and abroad we are faced with many problems. In Home Missions our problem is manpower, in Extension Work our problem is finances, and in our Overseas Work the problems are of many kinds. In India, for example, it is

impossible for us to send in evangelists because of restrictions made by the Government of India. Therefore, our only possible course of action is to make sure that the people we send in as teachers and nurses are people who have evangelistic zeal.

The Board has been launched successfully, but its continued success depends on the wholehearted support of all our people. The W.M.S. by its financial support, as well as by its contribution of personnel, will continue to have a very significant place in the work of the new Board. The work of missions, as everything else, is becoming increasingly costly, and if we are to carry out our talk without curtailment, this means increased contributions.

There is no question that as a church we have the resources, if we have the commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ. It is here that we need the prayers of all our people that all of us may seek what God would have us do, and that He will send forth more laborers into His vineyard.

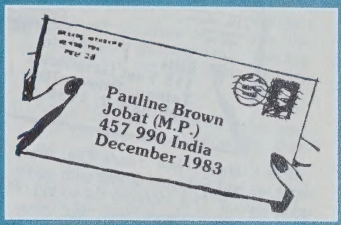
OUR NEW EDITOR

by Mrs. I. G. Sinclair

It is with pleasure that we announce the appointment of Miss Helen Proudfoot as Editor of *The Glad Tidings*. A native of Nova Scotia, Miss Proudfoot graduated from Acadia University with a B.A. degree and a Diploma in Secretarial Science. Through the influence of Dr. E.A. Thomson she came to Toronto in 1947 to work in the Church offices where she gained valuable knowledge and experience in many phases of the church's work. In 1956 she went to the Presbyterian Record as Editorial Assistant where she remained until 1960 when she became Editor of a Company publication in the Insurance field. A member of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Toronto, she is active in Christian Education. For relaxation, among other things, she enjoys lawn bowling and golf. Miss Proudfoot is well qualified for this position. We wish her well and assure her of our interest and support.

March 1967

Dear Friends,



At 5:30 this morning Mussa Abey, our hospital Chaplain, began the 1½ hour daily praise of seasonal music over a loud speaker which preceds the "Big Day", as Christmas is called in Hindi.

Thank you so much for your wonderful greetings and letters of news and encouragement received through the year. How we rely on your faithfulness!

What a busy year this has been! My calendar of events contains many reminders of meetings. These are in connection with: The Central Regional Board of Health Services C.N.I; The Voluntary Health Associations at the national as well as state levels; The Mid India Board of Examiners; The Christian Medical Association of India and The Nurses League of that assocation; The Governing Board of the United Mission to Nepal; The Governing Board of Christian Medical College and Hospital, Ludhiana; the working committee to the Vindhya Satpura Development Programme of Bhopal Diocese; and a number of local committees which function under the Boards just mentioned. As Secretary, Secretary/Treasurer of Executive Committee member of some of the Boards quite a lot of my time is taken up in administrative duties.

I feel the lack of time being given to what should be one of my primary tasks—taking part in health care at the local level here in the Vindhya Satpura area. As many of you are aware, we have health centres in four villages staffed by graduate nurses, some of whom are trained in Community Health and Auxiliary Nurses midwives. We also have a training programme to prepare and help Village Health Workers to care for the health of their own communities.

It is a great blessing and priviledge to work with the fine colleagues—some of many years standing. The other day Miss Suzana Tezloo (Ji Suzy too all who know, respect, and love her) and I were reminiscing that we have been working together for the past 29–30 years. A lot of shared experiences in that slice of time!

You are greatly remembered, and wished all the beauty, wholeness—the very presence—of the living Christ in your lives. There is no greater gift to give you.

~Polly

Mrs. Ellis (centre) with the "gang" at Better Hope, Guyana.

Going Ahead, Step by Step

by Clare Ellis, President, Women's Missionary Society (W.D.)

For the Spirit that God has given us does not make us timid; instead his Spirit fills us with power and love and self-control. 2 Timothy 1:7 (Good News Bible)

Happy and Joyous New Year 1986 to one and to all! Although we usually think of New Year as a new beginning, a fresh start, it is much more like a sequel to the old, a continuation of the previous twelve months! There were so many exciting experiences in 1985, some of them joyous, some of them sad; some so important that they have left their mark on our souls and characters. Much as we feel that last year is now behind us, some of our eager reaching forth is but the natural desire to grasp the future in the hope that all that has not been accomplished in the past may become the satisfaction and success in the New Year!

What can be said to the membership of our Society for 1986 as we together study the plans for the work so dear to our hearts? Have we 'Come Alive' in '85?

Like St. Paul, in Acts 16:6–8, we ask for divine guidance in the year ahead. Things happen that we cannot understand. But if we are Christians, we believe that God makes all things work together for good! God doesn't tell us beforehand what the future holds for us. We have to live by faith and not by sight, and faith means trusting God and going ahead, step by step. St. Paul could never have been the great Christian he was, nor have accomplished the great work he did without trusting in God so much that he could go forward always, even in the dark, being confident of God's guidance.

And so it was in Guyana, when I was there in April. The sunshine

was warm and invigorating; the sea breeze was cool and refreshing; the people of the Guyana Presbyterian Church and others were hospitable and loving; some of the main roads were very good, but the country is in a state of deterioration. Many citizens were leaving the country because of this, but the people of the Church who remain in the country responded to the preaching of the Gospel, the fellowship offered and the opportunities to serve. In spite of the many insecurities, the women evidenced constant commitment, the young people were talented and enthusiastic, and everywhere there were signs of life and growth in the Church. This was humbling experience.

Our friends in Guyana need our prayers and support as they continue to work for God and His Kingdom where justice and peace seem so very far away.

I recall a day when my daughter, who had been striving to attain the honour roll in her class, had at last reached her goal. Announcing the good news she seemed more eager to reveal the medium of success rather than to dwell upon the victory for she said, "When I want to do good work, I pray to God the prayer of our Lord and add the blessings for everyone." Better for the heart than much preaching was the lesson in truth that a child taught.

The Lord's Prayer and the little baby verses taught by her mother signified to her the language of communication with the Source of All Help. Already she had felt the great need that walks hand in hand with all the daily things of life! Being on the little ones, who Jesus said are the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven, she had the "faith that moveth mountains."

So for 1986! If we really believe that Christ is the answer, the only answer to a world torn by strife, injustice, sorrow and sin; are we willing to back our belief with our actions, our prayers and our gifts—so that no part of the work will have to be curtailed?

If we believe God is 'able' and can 'move mountains', are we willing to lay hold on His work—even if that provision demands more from each of us that it ever has before?

Happy New Year to all with good health and peace.

Today is the first day of the rest of your life
And the last day of the first of your life.
Live it as both a beginning and an end,
With the hope that the beginning bring,
With the commitment that endings demand,
Knowing in all you do that God's love is with you,
Sustaining, supporting, encouraging. Amen.

Ode to the *Glad Tidings*

by Shirley Miller

My first memory of a WMS mission magazine was as a girl about 5-years old visiting my Grandparent's farm. My grandmother belonged to the mission auxiliary at South Mountain Presbyterian Church. An evening visit with my family saw a lighted lamp, an open Bible, and a copy of the Foreign Mission magazine on the table. As I learned to read, the stories of missionaries came alive!

Later my school teacher, Mrs. Marjorie Gray, at the one room school which I attended was a faithful WMS supporter. She encouraged me in public speaking and often had me highlight a missionary from the *Glad Tidings* for an auxiliary meeting. She was instrumental in promoting young girls to speak on missionaries in a contest that the Brockville Presbyterial held for several years. As a twelve-year-old I won one of the contests which paid my way to the Presbyterian camp at Ingleside along the St. Lawrence River. The WMS and *Glad Tidings* were responsible for my first church camp experience!

As a teen I remember my mother sitting late into the evening at the farm house kitchen table surrounded by the *Glad Tidings* and mission resources. It was her responsibility to organize the program for the upcoming auxiliary meeting of Knox church, Ventnor. As a PYPS leader, I had the opportunity as a young women to attend an annual Synodical meeting at Belleville Training College and I actually got to meet missionaries and WMS office staff.

Life took a different path as I became a teacher, married a TD banker, and raised five children. My journey entails 12 moves in 24 years and attending as many Presbyterian churches along the way. My subscription to the *Glad Tidings* and the many WMS auxiliaries with faithful and compassionate members kept me grounded as a young wife and mother.

For the past 38 years, Paris has been my home and their WMS auxiliary, my focus. As auxiliary president for several years, terms as Paris Presbyterial and South Western Ontario Synodical presidents, the *Glad Tidings* has been my source of worship, program materials, and mission information. I stayed informed on Synodicals, Presbyterials and local activities through the *Glad Tidings*.

With Colleen Wood and Alexis McKeown at the helm, I enjoyed interesting and timely articles as well as colourful layouts.

As we say goodbye, we will not despair as the WMS women will find new ways to serve in mission through technology, Presbyterian Connections, and the National Presbyterian Women's Gatherings.

My WMS Experience

by Joan Hilliard

My experience with the WMS began in the early 1970s, when I was invited by a couple of friends to come to a WMS meeting. At that time, the meetings were in the evening since some members worked or had small children as I did. This group had been sponsored by the senior WMS group in the early 1940s. Our group is now very senior, very few, and like our Presbyterial and Synodical, in danger of coming to an end.

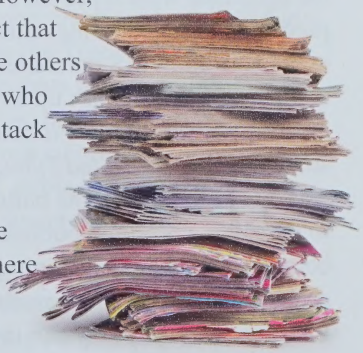
In those days, there were eleven groups scattered over a large area, so usually a school bus was hired to take us to the annual meeting in January. Many times someone made a motion to change the date of the meeting, but it was always voted down—cold feet and bad weather notwithstanding. Now, there are only four groups remaining.

I had my turn as a Presbyterial president, and I remember the first time I had to stand up and report for our presbyterial, following the Brockville president who happened to be that human dynamo, Lottie Sutherland. I must have seemed very dull after Lottie who always accompanied her reports with some kind of visual aids. When I was elected Synodical president, the three previous presidents were Druse Bryan, Margaret Reynolds, and the unforgettable Lois Klempa. What a challenge! One great reward for having those positions was the chance to meet other WMS women at our Annual Meetings, especially the times at Crieff Hills.

A highlight for me was the opportunity to travel with a small group to Guatemala to see the results of mission work firsthand.

Although it is sad to see WMS dwindling, I believe churches as a whole are more responsive to mission these days, partly due to the WMS influence. In my church, we have been encouraged by ministers to conduct the service on Mission Awareness Sunday, and there are special mission projects in the Spring and Fall with good response.

Our group has appreciated *Glad Tidings* over the years, and as someone who was on the *Glad Tidings* committee once upon a time, I am sorry that the time to end it has come. However, I suspect that there are others like me who have a stack of them taking up space somewhere to call upon if needed.



Reflections on *Glad Tidings*

by Katherine Allen

When I was asked to write something about my time with *Glad Tidings*, my mind went back to when I started in the WMS office. The Glad Tidings staff consisted of Millie Preston as secretary, a Circulation Manager, and the Editor. When Millie resigned in 1978, her replacement was Molly Wonnacott. Muriel Sharp left in 1978 and was replaced by Isabelle (Murray) Brown. When Molly left, the positions of Secretary and Circulation Manager were combined and taken over by Isabelle (Murray) Brown. Isabelle worked in that position until April 1986 when I took over from her.

I worked with June Stevenson from 1986 until the time she retired in 2004. I continued with mainly the circulation area until I retired in 2012. When I first started working with the *Glad Tidings*, computers were just starting to come into the office. The articles for the magazine were typed on a word processor, which became outdated as soon as the WMS purchased a computer! You couldn't do anything creative with the Word Processor, just straight typing. The *Glad Tidings* office was one of the first in the building to purchase a 'desktop publishing computer,' which made typing the articles into the columns much easier. I am sure very few now can imagine going from using a typewriter to the various changes in computers. Over the years, we tried to keep up with the changes in technology, which also lessened the time spent on the work that needed to be done.

For several years, the contents of the magazine were given to Terry Nicholls who took the articles to his office which was Tern Graphics, to be typeset. He returned the pages to the office and then I often helped June Stevenson with the layout of the magazine (the pages were glued to a piece of cardboard). Then it was sent to the printers.

One of my main responsibilities for *Glad Tidings*, was overseeing the subscriptions. In the beginning, the changes and additions for the magazine were done manually by filling in a form and sending it out of the office for these to be done by another company. Eventually, we acquired the actual program that contained the names and addresses of the subscribers and installed it on my computer and from then on, it was done in-house.

For many years, the *Glad Tiding* was also published on a cassette tape which eventually changed to a CD, along with our large print edition. The CD was discontinued around the time I left the office. This was a ministry we provided to the sight impaired

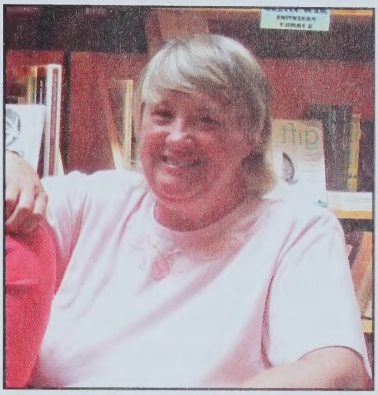
who really appreciated receiving the magazine in this format, but numbers had dwindled to a just a few people. Another thing that was done is that for many years, the Christmas worship service was translated into a few other languages and mailed to the respective churches, i.e. Hungarian, Korean, Chinese, and French.

One job I also enjoyed was attending the Editorial Committee where I took the minutes and gave a circulation report. I remember one year at the Council meeting held at Crieff Hills, the Glad Tidings magazine was celebrating a special anniversary. I think it was the 75th. The editorial committee put on a skit and I was included. The comical part was that I held up the "applause" sign upside down which made people laugh.

Since June retired, the office had a few different editors, until finally Colleen Wood was hired as editor. She has done a great job in keeping people informed on the mission of the church.

Canadian Church Press (CCP)

One of the highlights of my work was attending the Canadian Church Press Annual Conference. Along with June Stevenson, I attended meetings in Ottawa, Winnipeg, Niagara Falls, Cambridge, Waterloo, Mississauga, and Toronto. It was a learning experience to meet others who were involved in the same line of work as June and I. Over the years, I got to know quite a few people, some



of whom were also responsible for the circulation/subscriptions of their respective magazines. We often met to share ideas, as well as attend some of the workshops. Afterwards, June and I would meet to compare notes about the workshops we attended. I would often include some of these ideas in the column "Circulation News" which I wrote for each issue.

June was very involved with the CCP, and at one time served as their President. We heard some very interesting speakers. One of the speakers was the theologian, Tom Harpur, whose writings were often quite controversial, and published in a column in the Toronto Star.

It also gave me an opportunity to get to know Janice Carter, who was the previous editor of the Presbyterian Message, published by the Atlantic Mission Society.

Writing

June was very helpful in encouraging people who wanted to develop their writing skills, and

often published their works in the magazine. She would often receive a poem, puzzle, or a meditation from someone. When 9/11 happened in New York City, June was trying to write an editorial, but couldn't find the words. A friend of mine wrote something and sent it to me, which I passed along to June. It was exactly what she was looking for, so she published it in place of her editorial.

My interests in creative writing, photography, and art began when I was very young. Working with the WMS encouraged me to use some of these talents, especially when I began working with the *Glad Tidings*. I wrote "Circulation News" although after awhile I felt like I was saying the same thing every edition. Hopefully, this column was helpful for the readers as I did try to provide useful information. Sometimes one of my photos would be used for the cover of the magazine.

Certainly, over the years my writing skills have developed because of my experience working with the WMS. I feel blessed to have worked in the office and especially on *Glad Tidings* magazine.

I would like to express my appreciation for working with such gifted, creative people. I especially want to remember the gifts and encouragement of my dear friend, June Stevenson, who sadly passed away November 3, 2019.

CIRCULATION NEWS

Has the *Glad Tidings* secretary in your church approached you about renewing your subscription to the *Glad Tidings* magazine? Have you given your $11.00? Has your group returned the list of subscribers for your congregation to the office?

If you are an individual subscriber and moved to a church where there is a group, or you already belong to a group and are transferring to another group, please notify the group secretary. Also, provide her with a copy of the label from a previous issue of *Glad Tidings* magazine.

There are several ways of promoting the magazine. For instance, give a gift subscription to someone in a seniors home, church school teacher, youth leader, minister, or all the women or new members in your congregation. Remind people that *Glad Tidings* is the mission magazine of the church and it is for everyone—not just the WMS group or the women of the church.

November/December 2003

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How many names can **you** add to the Subscription Lists for 1961?

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